Stephen Reeves 10/13

In “The Dimensions of Disability Oppression,” James Charlton argues that because of the way dominant culture depicts disabled people, the oppression of disabled people has become a norm.

1. “Perhaps the most fitting characterization of the socioeconomic condition of people with disabilities is that they are outcasts” (Charlton 148).

Many people portray people with disabilities like this already, including activist.

1. “They hold that people with disabilities are pitiful and that disability itself is abnormal” (Charlton 150).

This is how the modern world sees disabled people due to people’s culture. This attitude is common throughout most cultures. They is the general public.

1. “Most people with disabilities actually come to believe that they are less normal, less capable than others” (Charlton 151).

The dominant thinking so society and culture have started to persuade the disabled that they are less normal. They are influenced by everyone around them to think that they should pity themselves.

1. “In Chicago, I have colleagues and friends who were told they could not become teachers because they used wheelchair” (Charlton 154/155).

Disability oppression has become just as bad as some other groups that were oppressed.

1. “I know of a student art exhibition that was canceled because some drawings portrayed the students growing up to be doctors and other ‘unrealistic vocations’” (Charlton 155).

Society does not see any of the potential people with disabilities have. People only the wheelchair and not the person.

1. “Instead of curing the social conditions that cause disease and desperation, or removing the steps that necessitate assistance, the dominant culture explains the pitiful conditions people are forced to live in by creating a stratum or group of “naturally pitiful” (Charlton 156).

Dominant culture doesn’t try to improve things for disabled people. They don’t look at alternatives to stairs they just accept the fact that people with disabilities need to be pitied.

1. “Or even worse, stories of the heroic person with a disability who has “miraculously,” against all odds, become a successful person” (Charlton 156).

Stories depicting disabled super hero tell that the disabled super hero isn’t accepted into society until he does something that prove that he is succeesful.

1. “The vast majority of people with disabilities have always been poor, powerless, and degraded” (Charlton 147).

The oppression of the disabled has been going on for some time. It has become embedded in our culture.

1. “My point to other activists is that the logic of disability oppression closely parallels the oppression of other groups” (Charlton 148).

The author is comparing the oppression of disability to other group oppression like the African Americans.

1. “The dehumanization of people with disabilities through language (as just one obvious example) has a profound influence on consciousness” (Charlton 157).

Dehumanization allows for people to talk and think about other like they are not actual people. By calling each other derogatory names it lead to the dehumanization of the disabled.